



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Inventor: Ball et al.

Serial No: 09/530,342

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Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR DRAWING WAVEGUIDE  
FIBERS

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

REPLY

RECEIVED  
FEB 14 2003  
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

## RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated August 30, 2002, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. A method for producing a waveguide fiber in a draw furnace including a graphite, generally tubular muffle having an inner surface comprising the steps of:

providing a high purity silicon carbide coating on the inner surface of the graphite muffle wherein the high purity silicon carbide coating contains less than about 900 parts per billion of impurities and the muffle comprises at least two separate, stacked generally tubular axial segments;

disposing waveguide fiber preform in the muffle;

heating the furnace to a temperature sufficient to draw fiber from the preform; and drawing fiber from the preform